

EURAG General Council Meeting

Unitaria, Anenska 5, Prague 1

March 10th , 2023 from 1.30 pm till 5.30 pm

Draft Minutes

Participants:	Chair: Dirk Jarré (EURAG president-Germany) Board members: Dana Steinova (Secretary General-Czech Rep.), Monique Epstein (vice-president-France) and Jaap van der Spek (vice-president-Netherlands), Milos Vajs (treasurer-Czech Rep.) Austria: Rosemarie Kurz, Monika Puck, Stefanie Puck, Katharina Puck, Elisabeth Seelmaier, Eveline Hoenigsperger, Gerlinde Pachernegg, Gertraud Dayé Belgium: Arlette van Assel, Wim Verzelen Czech Rep: Andrea Fritz, Pavel Kalvach Denmark: Peter Hansen, Povl Anker Andersen Estonia: Tiina Tambaum Finland: Siiri Jaakson France: Francoise Pettelat, Denis Massard, Jan Sekal, Moira Allan, Diana Smith Hungary: Gábor Hegyesi Ireland: Mai Quaid, Frank Quaid Israel: Raziell Zwang, Moti Geller, Esther Geller Lithuania: Virgilia Dolgova, Rita Slaitaite, Netherlands: Margreet van der Spek Republic of Moldova: Veronica Timbalari Slovakia: Aneta Zubekova
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<p>1. Opening of the meeting</p>	<p>EURAG president Dirk Jarré opened officially the general council meeting and thanked to the Czech organizers for organizing a very attractive program</p>
<p>2. Adoption of the agenda</p>	<p>Agenda was adopted without any objections.</p>
<p>3. Adoption of the minutes of the last meeting of the General Council</p>	<p>The minutes of the last General Council meeting, that took place in Graz, Austria, on September 16th, 2022, were adopted.</p>
<p>4. President's activity report</p>	<p>Dirk informed the members about the activities of EURAG in the fall of 2022 after the Graz meeting. NGO committee on Ageing had several meetings and worked on the International Day of Older Persons, the conference on Abuse of Older Persons is available on line https://www.ngoageingvie.org/. Dirk was nominated as a president for the present term. EURAG was active in the Social Platform, Dirk attended all its meetings and informed in details about the work of the Membership Fee Committee. The situation, needs and capacities of the member organisations must be the basis of a reasonable approach, the financial capacities of the individual members differ considerably. Important aspects are if the member organisations are located in Brussels and if they receive subsidies from the EU or not. In general, all membership fees should be fixed by a certain basic percentage of the real average income of the organisation which should be revised every three years.</p> <p>Dirk Jarré is also a member of the Consultative committee on Industrial Changes. There are less than 100 people from all the EU countries. Dirk has got his third mandate in a row. EURAG can propose its</p>

	<p>ideas via Dirk's mandate. His role is to promote and make the committee to realize the potential of older persons to economic and social life. In the past there was a lot of resistance toward these issues.</p>
<p>5. Report of the Vice president of communication</p>	<p>Monique Epstein confirmed the intention to continue with zoom meetings between the personal meetings during EURAG conferences. She called for more contributions from members to the EURAG web site www.eurage-europe.net , and reported on the series of zoom conferences and other virtual activities. Monique also up dated the info on memory training on our website.</p> <p>During pandemic Monique secured technically 16 EURAG zoom conferences on different topics, six Pan European memory training sessions with Dana Steinova, book clubs and English conversation classes, which enriched the mutual contacts among EURAG members during pandemic, helped them to deal better with isolation and generally brought "life" into their lives.</p>
<p>6. Report by the Secretary General</p>	<p>Dana Steinova informed about the EURAG economy ,the balance sheets of 2022 checked by the treasurer Milos Vajs were published.</p> <p>This past 2022 year was special because humanitarian aid for Ukraine from EURAG members was transferred to EURAG account and from that to the account of Age Concern Ukraine, our member organisation.</p> <p>EURAG uses its funds strictly to help to cover the costs of the national conferences if needed and the costs connected with its website. EURAG left AGE Platform by the end of 2020 and pays its membership in the Social Platform and Vienna UN NGO Committee on Ageing. All</p>

the board members cover their costs connected by EURAG activities by themselves.

There was an exception in Prague because the free board was provided for 14 EURAG members, mostly those who had presentations at the conference. All these costs were covered by the Czech Society for Memory training which was the organizing body.

At this point Moti Geller from Israel suggested to increase the membership fee because of current inflation. The secretary general opposed that such decision could be counterproductive step because the member organisations themselves also suffer from inflation and we could only lose some of our members.

7. Presentations of two messages from Switzerland and Ukraine

Dana Steinova presented two letters from members who could not be present in person:

Roland Grunder, co-chairman, CSA-Swiss council of Elders:

Roland apologized for his long term absence due to health reasons. CSA works with a mandate from the government- the federal council- as a consultant and represents approx.1.8 million Swiss senior citizens. The working groups focus on social security, health, mobility and information technology. There will be a change of the person in charge of the international representation in CSA, Roland is reaching the end of his term.

Galina Poliakova, Age Concern Ukraine, a letter written on February 24,2023

Hard to believe that the war started one year ago and even harder to believe that it is still going on.Galina learned to love and hate. She though she knew what the feelings were about, but only now she knows what the real love and hate are about. Her organisation got a grant

	<p>from the World Jewish Relief in order to help to people over 70 living in the rural areas of the frontline zone. These people refuse to leave their homes. Civilians are forbidden to enter this zone so the humanitarian aid must be delivered by police.</p>
<p>8. Presentations which could not been included into the conference program</p>	<p>Rosemarie Kurz , Graz, Austria</p> <p>Rosemarie informed about the EU projects Interreg Central Europe where Austria cooperated with the Czech Republic,Hungary,Poland,Slovakia, Germany and Italy :The issue: Most very old people will be cared of at their own homes with public assistance.The second project IN CARE,10 Partners in 7 countries, promoting innovative and integrated approaches to longterm care.</p> <p>Gabor Hegyesi, Budapest, Hungary</p> <p>Gabor presented activities of the Hungarian senior organisation which is extremely lively and provides a wide range of activities for its members. Besides that it is a strong fighter for the senior rights in Hungary.</p> <p>Mai Quaid, Wicklow, Ireland</p> <p>Mai, as a chair of Wicklow Older People´s council introduced the new Age Friendly Strategy to ensure that the voices of older persons were heard. The aim is to increase services and support,accessibility and provision of relevant infrastructure to meet the increasing needs of local senior citizens.</p> <p>Aneta Zubekova, Bratislava, Slovakia</p> <p>Aneta founded a new senior organisation SENIOR COUNCIL after the crises in the original Union of Slovak seniors took place. Its goal is to use a lifelong learning as a tool for increase of the potential of healthy seniors. Is is planned to take advantage of EU projects</p>

	<p>and create any other opportunities to activate seniors.</p>
<p>9. Info on the next GC meetings</p>	<p>The dates of the next General council meeting and a conference are September 3rd-7th, 2023 in Israel.</p> <p>The spring EURAG event is under negotiation.</p> <p>The fall 2024 EURAG event takes place in Paris, France</p>
<p>9. Closing of the General Council meeting by the president</p>	<p>Dirk Jarré expressed big thanks and gratitude to the Czech Society for Memory Training and Brain Jogging, as the main organizing body and its collaborators, such as the Czech Technical University and its faculty of Bio- Medical Engineering and the Prague and Central Bohemian Senior Councils, especially to Milos Vajs ,Pavel Kalvach, Andrea Fritz and Dana Steinova, for organising such a successful EURAG event. The event had the highest number of participants during the new era since 2011. Dirk believes in EURAG´s bright future and its role in the society, strongly and successfully promoting a future of “Not leaving anyone behind in the ageing world”as the UN Fundamental charter of Human rights states.</p>